



Proclamation

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 200,000 of Hawai`i's residents and approximately 50 million Americans suffer from some form of disability. Of our disabled residents, less than 60 percent are employed.

During National Disability Employment Month, we pay tribute to the accomplishments of the men and women with disabilities in our state and reaffirm our commitment to ensuring equal opportunities for all of our citizens.

The State of Hawai`i is committed to reducing the rate of unemployment among people with disabilities by supporting the work of the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) in their work to address policies that impact the employment of people with disabilities.

The U.S. Secretary of Labor, Elaine L. Chao, has selected *Americans With Disabilities: Ready for the Global Workforce* as the official theme for October's National Disability Employment Awareness Month to emphasize one of President Bush's top priorities – economic opportunity through job creation. It also builds on the accomplishments of the President's "New Freedom Initiative," which has created many opportunities for people with disabilities to be fully included in the 21st Century workforce.

As the people of our state join the federal government, advocacy groups and businesses nationwide in recognizing this vital group in our workforce, we acknowledge the talents and skills of job seekers and working Americans who live with disabilities.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor of the State of Hawai`i, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor, do hereby proclaim **October 2006**, as

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

in Hawai`i, and commend our many employers who have recognized and utilized the skills and talents of people with disabilities in building an effective workforce in our islands. They have worked to remove the barriers that people with disabilities in our state face when seeking employment.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai`i, this tenth day of October 2006.


Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai`i


James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai`i